

OFFICE OF SEN. STROM THURMOND  
447 Senate Office Building  
Ext. 5972

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today introduced a bill to remove the Federal subsidy from domestic trunk airlines.

The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Wallace F. Bennett (R-Utah), John Marshall Butler (R-Md.), Russell B. Long (D-La.) and Thruston B. Morton (R-Ky.).

The bill would make the domestic trunk airline system ineligible for subsidy, either for domestic service or for service to points outside the continental limits of the United States which are integral parts of the system. It would also remove the eligibility of a carrier for subsidy on any route it may be awarded in the future which precisely parallels, non-stop, a route over 50 miles long which is operated by another carrier ineligible for subsidy on that route. The eligibilities of local service carriers and other carriers would not be changed.

Pointing out that the last trunk line carrier came off subsidy on July 1, 1957, Thurmond said the "time has come to emphasize the fact that the trunk line carriers have come of age."

Under the subsidy system, Thurmond declared, "there is no business risk faced by a carrier in its route applications." For this reason, he said, subsidies make it more difficult for the Civil Aeronautics Board to develop a route structure which is sound and which is best designed to serve the national interest.

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